

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Cancel)
2. (Cancel)
3. (Currently Amended) ~~Set~~ Process according to claim ~~4~~ 17, wherein the titanium oxide particles are at least partially covered:
 - by a first layer of at least one cerium and/or iron compound, and
 - by a second layer of at least one silicon or metallic oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~Set~~ Process according to claim ~~2~~ 17, wherein the titanium oxide particles have a BET specific surface area of at least 70 m²/g.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~Set~~ Process according to claim ~~2~~ 17, wherein the ratio by weight of the silicon or metallic oxide(s), hydroxide(s) or oxyhydroxide(s) to titanium dioxide is at most 60% by weight.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Set~~ Process according to claim 3 17, wherein the first aforementioned layer is based on at least one cerium compound with a content such that the ratio by weight of the cerium compound, expressed in CeO₂, to the titanium dioxide is at most 6% by weight.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Set~~ Process according to claim 4 17, wherein the titanium oxide particles are at least partially covered by at least one layer based on silica and/or aluminum oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Set~~ Process according to claim 4 17, wherein the organic liquid phase is based on a polar solvent.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Set~~ Process according to claim 4 17, wherein the organic phase comprises a polar solvent selected from the group consisting of halogenated solvents, esters, and alcohols.

Claims 11 - 15 (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Process for the preparation of a sol according to claim 4~~ 17, wherein the sol comprises ~~comprising~~ an organic liquid phase (a) the ~~method~~ process comprising:

forming a dispersion comprising the titanium oxide particles, and at least one of the amphiphilic compounds in an organic liquid phase (b) based on a solvent with a lower polarity than that of the organic liquid phase (a);

separating the solid phase from the liquid phase (b); and

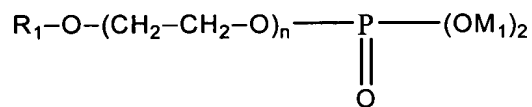
dispersing the solid phase obtained in this way in the organic phase (a).

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Preparation process according to claim 14, comprising using~~ Process for the preparation of an organic, comprising:

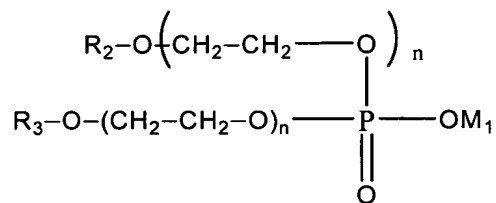
titanium oxide particles;

an organic liquid phase;

at least one amphiphilic compound having a formulae:



or



wherein,

R₁, R₂, and R₃ are a linear or branched alkyl group, a phenyl group, an alkylaryl group or an arylalkyl group;

n represents the number of ethylene oxide units; and

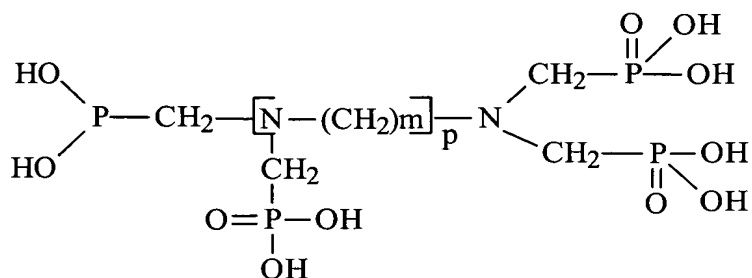
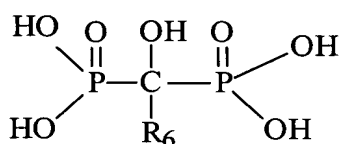
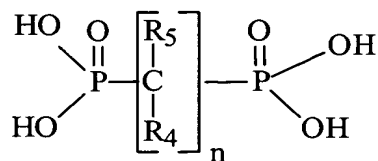
M1 represents a hydrogen, sodium or potassium atom, the process comprising the following steps:

a) preparing, as the starting product, titanium dioxide particles which were obtained by hydrolysis of at least least one titanium compound A in the presence of at least one compound B selected from the group consisting of:

(i) acids which have:

- either a carboxyl group and at least two hydroxyl and/or amine groups,
- or at least two carboxyl groups and at least one hydroxyl and/or amine group,

(ii) organic phosphoric acids of the following formulas:



in which n and m are integers comprised between 1 and 6, p is an integer comprised between 0 and 5, R₄, R₅ and R₆ identical or different represent a hydroxyl, amino, aralkyl, aryl, alkyl group or hydrogen group,

(iii) the compounds capable of releasing sulphate ions in an acid medium,

(iv) salts of the acids described above

and in the presence of anatase titanium dioxide seeds;

~~then separating the precipitate formed from the hydrolysis medium~~

b) optionally at least partially covering the particles by a layer of at least one of a silicon or a metallic oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide; and

c) mixing the amphiphilic compound and the organic liquid phase together, then dispersing the titanium oxide particles in the mixture obtained, or forming a mixture of titanium oxide particles and at least one of the aforementioned amphiphilic compounds, then dispersing said mixture in the liquid phase.

18. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 17, comprising using, as the starting product, titanium dioxide particles which were obtained by the hydrolysis process and in which the anatase titanium dioxide seeds are of a size no greater than 8 nm and are present in ratio by weight expressed in TiO₂ present in the seeds/titanium present before the introduction of the seeds into the hydrolysis medium, expressed in TiO₂ comprised between 0.01% and 3%.

19. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 17, comprising using, as the starting product, titanium dioxide particles which were obtained by the aforementioned hydrolysis process and in which the titanium compound A is titanium oxychloride.

20. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 17, comprising using, as the starting product, titanium dioxide particles which were obtained by the aforementioned hydrolysis process and in which compound B is ~~eritie~~ citric acid.

21. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 17, comprising using, as the starting product, titanium dioxide particles which were obtained by a process comprising the aforementioned hydrolysis and in which the precipitate formed is separated from the hydrolysis medium then redispersed in water resulting in a dispersion of titanium oxide in water and where said dispersion is dried at a temperature no greater than 120°C.

22. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 17, wherein the sol is subjected to an ultrafiltration treatment.

23. (Canceled)